

Committee will explore beach access

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DUXBURY — An ad hoc committee has been created to help Town Manager Rocco Longo review the town's policy on selling beach stickers and access to Duxbury Beach.

Residents and non-residents with valid automobile registrations and driver's licenses can buy beach permits.

Longo said he wants a recommendation by the end of August.

So far, the committee has nine members — five town staff members and representatives from the Duxbury Beach Reservation, beach committee and conservation commission.

The beach is owned by Duxbury Beach Reservation and leased by the town. The town has a beach committee, but officials said the ad hoc committee would provide more representation for residents.

"By broadening it beyond the beach committee, I think we're giving a message to residents that we do care about your opinions," Selectman Margaret Kearney said.

Longo said the ad hoc committee will research state regulations regarding beach access and how other communities address access issues.

The committee will also investigate how and when stickers are sold in other towns and at what cost. Stickers are sold in Duxbury only during town hall hours, which Longo said can be inconvenient.

Permits are required for the resident parking lot, which has 345 spaces, and the 500-space non-resident parking area on the beach.

As of July 6, 3,416 residents purchased stickers for the paved parking lot, and 2,560 residents and 2,540 non-residents bought stickers for the sand lot.

Longo said he also wants to educate the public about the town's policy and beach access. He said stickers do not guarantee a parking space at the beach.

Longo said there will be a public meeting this summer to receive input from residents about their concerns.